

TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

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WHAT SILVER REALLY COSTS

(Mohave County Miner)

We have seen so many statements lately in the press regarding the cost of silver production per ounce, and apparently from what should be well informed sources, that we must express our surprise at their dense ignorance. We take it that a statement put forth in congress a month or so ago by one of the southern representatives was the basis of all these newspaper articles. This congressman stated that the cost of silver production the past several years was less than 50 cents per ounce. This statement is palpably false. In some instances silver may be produced for that amount or less, but it is as a bi-product that such production has been or can be made. That this is true we have but to call attention to the thousands of men working on tribute in all the big silver mines of the country before silver got down below 60 cents and to note the fact that since 1900 hardly a bakers dozen of them continued on the job. No one in Mohave county attempted to mine silver since that date, and it is only the past year that silver mining has shown any revival. The only silver that has been mined in the United States in many years is that secured from copper and lead mining as a bi-product. Take the companies that have attempted to mine silver at 60 or 70 cents per ounce some years ago and none if any of them paid a dividend. Nearly all the companies that were handling purely silver properties one by one went out of commission without a treasury. A few of the companies operating the very rich ore bodies in Canada and Mexico were able to continue operations and one or two of the Tonopahs produced small amounts of the white metals, not wishing to allow the mines to fill with water. Today millions will have to be spent on the old silver mines of the country to bring them into productivity, but nearly all should make good. Mining is an inviting business, and when good judgment is used and the proper expenditure of money is made, it is as safe, if not a safer investment than industrial, but like all other investments it cannot produce below the limit of costs of production.

At the present price of silver, there is undoubtedly a wide margin of profit for a mine that a few years ago could not get past mine and mill costs, but if any one believes that he can produce silver at 50 cents an ounce, why let him try the experiment.

SOLDIERS DISGUSTED

It begins to look as though the five million men who served with the colors during the war and the Republican leaders in Congress were drawing off for a finish fight on the bonus or compensation question. The majority leaders have declared their stand of no compensation for this Congress and nothing but a party caucus can overturn them before they come to the mat with the soldiers. Indications that former service men over the country have put the present Congress down as faithless and inefficient and that they intend going after the "scalps" of those responsible for the party policy are coming in from various sections of the country.

The complaint of the former service men is that after a year of waiting and trusting in the pledges of the present Congress they now understand that the present body of law makers are unwilling to make a compensation adjustment in any form at this time. At a special conference of the Republican leaders held within the last few days it was decided that the men would be told they must wait before relief or adjustment will be given them.

In the meantime, the American Legion, representing some million and a half organized former service men, through its executive committee, has called on Congress to keep the faith it pledged the men during last summer and fall and has stated its belief that a fifty dollar bond should be given every man who served honorably during the war for every month of service as a compensation to meet the extreme living cost created largely by the unusually high compensations paid civilians during the war. In its resolution the executive committee called especial attention to the fact that the American Legion in its November convention in Minneapolis "left with confidence the discharge of this obligation to Congress," and in its next article declares that "no definite action looking to such compensation has yet been taken by Congress."

Legion officers, in respect to their resolution, point to the fact that the congressional leaders gave them to understand last summer there would be no soldier compensation legislation until after the American Legion convention, so that Congress might have the advantage of knowing what the majority of the service men wanted. They further allude to the assurances given them by certain Republican leaders at the time of the convention that they could with confidence leave such a matter to Congress without specifying any fixed adjustment. Now apparently they are convinced that Congress has broken faith with them and some of the men are convinced that certain wily members of Congress have purposely schemed them into a corner where they can afford to neglect them.

The demand among the yet unorganized men who served in the ranks is said to be even more insistent than that of the members of the several soldier organizations. Proof of the pressure behind such legislation is seen in the fact that about eighty bills have been in-

troduced in the house looking toward compensation in some form. It is evident that the Republican leaders will have a fight on their hands even among members of their own party who have introduced some of these bills in response to the influence of home sentiment.

TOMORROW'S POWER

A few years ago the hardy sons of New England sailed the summer and the winter seas in search of the whale and a few vats of whale oil supplied the world's need.

Today oil comes from the heart of mother earth, in great black gushers, boiling out in rivers, trickling out in greasy streams, sometimes only oozing through the soil, but these rivers and lakes and little streams, however fast they flow, are ever an ebb tide when the surge of the world's demand is considered.

How long will the "gas age" last, and what is next? Engineers who are looking ahead for generations say electricity will be the coming force.

Rivers are being located on for power projects that may not be developed for twenty years, but capital sees ahead and is getting ready.

The west has water power by the hundreds of thousands of horsepower yet untouched. High-power transmission lines will take this hundreds of miles; new improvements in storage batteries will make electricity available for truck, tram, railroad train and maybe aeroplane.

NATIONAL FINANCES

It was reassuring to learn, from the recent statement of Secretary of the Treasury Houston, that the United States is getting out of its financial hole. Deficits have practically been abolished. There are no more "uncovered maturities." War and post-war expenses have fallen off so that the government is no longer obliged to spend money faster than it comes in, and the sale of war materials has helped. There are tax certificates outstanding to the extent of nearly \$3,000,000,000, but it is expected that these will be paid by the forthcoming income and excess profits taxes.

"The position of the treasury today," says the secretary, "and the future of the market for the outstanding issues of Liberty Bonds and Victory notes is very bright." Provided—and here comes a timely warning:

"The whole color of the picture would, of course, be changed if Congress should embark upon new expenditures on a large scale."

The problem today, he explains, is that of enabling the people to have enough capital to absorb that rather large part of the war issues which is held by the banks, in ownership or as security for loans, and also to absorb the flood of foreign securities with which Europe is now trying to pay its American debts.

Congress fortunately shows a tendency to heed this warning. It will surely do so, for the remainder of the session, if the public continues to uphold the secretary's demand for economy.

HOPE FOR THE PEOPLE

Our day has come. OUR day. The day of US, the People. We are to be organized.

The Middle Class Union of New York State has been granted a certificate of incorporation. Its chief, or whatever he is, says the union will consist of "that host of refined, intelligent but unorganized individuals who are neither labor unionists, politicians nor capitalists. This body of people is the most powerful in all states, but lacks the force of concentrated effort, and will become extinct unless some relief in the shape of organization is afforded."

So We, the People, are to be taken in time and saved from extinction, like the buffalo of the plains or the deer in the national parks. We are even to be given a voice in things, we have so long "suffered in silence" as this leader expresses it. Maybe we'll have grips and passwords 'n everything, and a high sign. And then maybe we can get up our nerve to send petitions to the government, or labor unions, or even to the gas company—just take our pen in hand, and, with a few preliminary flourishes, begin: "We, the People—"

Won't that be great!

SAVING THE MOTHERS

Statistics of the State board of health show that during the first six months of 1919, there were 18 deaths of mothers from blood poisoning following child birth. In addition to this, there were 23 babies that died as a result of wrong conditions. Many of these mothers were sacrificed to ignorance. Many of the children died because of lack of proper attention to the mother, and others to improper care of the child. A 40 page book entitled "Parental Care" can be secured from the State board of health, Phoenix, Arizona, free. It is issued by the government as a guidance to mothers and will help them to understand the necessity for the various things the careful doctor insists upon.

A PROSPECTOR'S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The inevitable has happened! Now that every other line of human endeavor has organized, the humble prospector has turned at last and he, too, is organizing. Just how a prospector can go on a strike or how an association can help a prospector to buy his burros or his bacon or his "frijoles" at a lower rate has not been unfolded to the general public. But you can always trust a prospector to have a few cards up his sleeve that the public wots not of any maybe the prospects of the West Kootenay do possess a winning hand.

Seriously there is one plank in the program as unfolded by the Northwest Mining Truth of Spokane, Washington, which is worth consideration and that is the

statement to the effect that the new prospectors' Protective Association will endeavor to increase the economic efficiency of the prospector through the establishment of winter mining schools. As the prospector himself would phrase it "the surface has never been scratched" along these lines. And the wonder is, not that something is now being attempted in the direction of bringing about greater economic efficiency for the prospector but that something has not been accomplished long, long ago.

At any rate the story as published in the Northwest Mining Truth reads as follows:

"And so we extend our sincere congratulations to our old friend, 'Jack' Mulholland of Nelson, locator of the Ivy Fern group and one of the best prospectors in the Kootenay district, who has been made first president of the British Columbia Prospectors' Protective Association, an organization growing out of his own knowledge of the needs of his kind, and his determination to be of some benefit to others less fortunate in search of the pay streak. Such an organization is obviously sensible in conception and will accomplish much real good if its announced plans are carried out faithfully and with good judgment.

"In broadest sense, the association aims to aid the mining industry, by making the way of the prospector easier and seeing to it that he does not want for the bare necessities of life if, in the course of events, his own efforts to gain a competency fail. It will also endeavor to increase his efficiency through winter mining schools; act as an intermediary between capitalist and prospector and influence mining legislation for the benefit of the industry.

"It is quite certain that in the past prospectors have, so to speak, cut little ice in matters politically. Being essentially nomads, here today, and there tomorrow, they have not been a cohesive voting unit. If however, the new organization does its work well, it is quite possible that in future they will be a force with which politicians will be compelled to reckon. And that does not mean that the organization should be political in its efforts. Most distinctly it should not, but in matters where specific legislation is needed it can make itself felt for benefit of the prospector, the mining industry and therefore for the entire country. If there ever was a country that owes its all to the patient, never-say-die prospector it is West Kootenay.

"The experiment will be watched with great interest in other mining sections where the prospector is not already extinct. We should like to see the organization attempt to bring in legislation that would place a small annual tax upon producing mines to provide funds for a real Prospectors' Home, where the old grizzled fellows who have cut the trails of the province could spend their last days in pleasant association and comfort. Such provision for old age, if carefully removed from all atmosphere of charity, would do much to preserve the prospector for the benefit of mankind."—Miami Silver Belt.

FOUR ECLIPSES DURING YEAR

Here is a little meteorological information for 1920 that may be of interest. It indicates four eclipses will be seen during the year. Two will be of the sun and two of the moon. The first will be a total eclipse of the moon on May 2; the next eclipse will be a partial eclipse of the sun, May 17; the next a total eclipse of the moon, October 27, and the last is a partial eclipse of the sun on November 10. The information is from the government weather bureau.

SPECIAL CHILD COURTS

The children's bureau of the United States department of labor has just issued a bulletin in which it recommends a county system to provide for proper care of children who are under trial for any offense. The county system provides a unified probation service, a detention home and a clinic for child study.

The need for such protection of the children is readily seen from a few of the facts set forth in the bulletin. Young child offenders who have been handicapped by heredity, by faulty home training or bad community influences are frequently treated as hardened criminals. In 1918 175,000 children's cases came before the courts in the United States. Of these, 50,000 were tried in courts not adapted to handling juvenile cases. In many instances children were detained in jails, and 37 courts in eighteen different states admitted that no effort was made to separate the children in these jails from the adult criminals. This was true in spite of the fact that in many of the states separation is required by law.

Of more than 2000 courts, only 321 had any special organization for trying juvenile cases. There were twenty-one juvenile courts created by special law and independent of other courts. Nearly half of them were in only five states.

Even where there was some provision for private hearings or more humane treatment there was too common a habit of regarding the child not as a helpless person in need of special care and protecting, but as a regular offender.

It is obvious to thoughtful persons that justice, humanity and public welfare all demand a more enlightened attitude. There should be an examination of the child's home conditions, family circumstances, physical and mental condition. The best work along these lines has been done in cities of over 100,000 population. Hence the special recommendation for the county child protection system which will look out for the unfortunate youngsters of the small town and rural districts.

Censored movies are unpopular. A Washington theater, which did a thriving business, decided to put on "unquestionable pictures" but soon had to return to the other kind to avoid bankruptcy.

WIFE'S HEALTH MADE HIM QUIT HOMESTEAD

PHOENIX, Feb. 21.—Claiming that the health of his wife and child demanded constant medical attention so that they were compelled to be absent from their homestead, Jam E. Martin yesterday filed his answer in the contest proceedings brought against him in the U. S. land office by Louis M. Chirros. Chirros alleges that Martin abandoned his homestead near Casa Grande and that he failed to establish his residence there.

The contestee through his attorney Stephen Rayburn, claims that he established his residence on the homestead in good faith. He claims that he cleared 20 acres and made improvements, and only the health conditions made it necessary for him to go to California where his wife and child are under the care of a physician. He alleges that the contest action was brought at the instance of another for speculative purposes, claiming that a price had even been set on the property if the entry was cancelled. He gave the price as \$1000.

BODY OF DEAD MAN IS FOUND BY CAR DRIVER

PATAGONIA, Feb. 24.—Friday afternoon Hugh Young, who runs the auto stage between Patagonia and Parker Canyon found the dead body of Jose Jesus Acevedo by the side of the road between this place and Harshaw. Mr. Young saw Acevedo at work on the road in the morning on the outward trip and spoke to him. The deceased was about 35 years old and had lived all his life at Harshaw. He was subject to epilepsy and it is supposed he died in one of the recurrent paroxysms. Justice Richard Farrell of Harshaw was notified who summoned a coroner's jury, W. A. Hopkins, Tony Valenzuela, Richard Farrell, Jr., Francisco Olevarez, Luisiano Lopez and Nacho Arlo and held an inquest. The verdict was death from natural causes. The deceased leaves an aged mother and a sister of whom he was the sole support.

SOON WILL CONFIRM NEW LAND REGISTER

PHOENIX, Feb. 24.—Charles E. Marshall's nomination for register of the United States land office at Phoenix has been reported favorably by the senate committee on the public lands and will be confirmed by the senate this week. This information was contained in a telegram from Senator Henry F. Ashurst to John L. Irvin, register, who recently tendered his resignation.

Mr. Irvin resigned that he might give his attention to his private business. He is connected with one of the largest and oldest real estate firms in the city and hopes in another week to be able to turn his official position over to his successor.

WITHDRAWAL OF SHEEP GRAZING LAND OPPOSED

PHOENIX, Feb. 24.—Be it resolved, that the American Wool Growers' association declares itself to be unalterably opposed to the proposed withdrawal of 60,000 acres in the Coconino national forest, and pledges itself to use every reasonable effort to prevent the proposed withdrawal of this or any similar area now used for the grazing of sheep.

With Hugh E. Campbell, president presiding and members of the advisory board from each of the forest reserves in northern Arizona present, the Arizona Wool Growers' association thus declared itself at a special meeting held here yesterday to discuss grazing conditions on Arizona reserves, as well as questions dealing with the driveways now provided for moving sheep across reserves.

Discussion of the withdrawal question consumed the greater part of the day. F. W. C. Pooler, district forester with headquarters at Albuquerque, N. M., being present to state the forest department's position and intention.

PRESCOTT — McNulty & Bride copper mine ready to start ore shipments.